Student Welfare Measures

ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES
New Delhi -110002

Student Welfare Measures

Report
By
The Committee Constituted by AIU

MESSAGE

Student Welfare endeavors to help student's educational process to advance their academic as well as personal abilities. These activities are designed to address the issues faced by the students in pursuing their education and training and also removing the difficulties that comes in the path of their learning process so that they can have stress-free environment in their campus life. Student welfare initiatives help in facilitating a positive academic environment and help students to proceed in their career with minimal obstruction. Adequate implementation of these initiatives protects the rights of students and promotes the activities to nurture students mental, physical and cultural growth, leading to holistic development which is one of the thrust areas of recommendation of NEP 2020. Therefore, Student welfare program and services are basic services and programs needed to ensure and promote student well-being.

The concept of student welfare service is constantly evolving. The colonial model of higher education has addressed this issue sporadically, especially when access to education was limited to those who could afford it. But, with the massification of higher education and multiple increase in student enrollment which is resulted due to widening access, adequate strategies need to be developed to ensure that these activities and services are delivered in a manner that is seamless, meaningful, and integrated with the mainstream academic mission of the institutions. Adequate policies should be built on sound principles partnering with both the institutionsand other stakeholders as well.

Based upon the above premise a need was felt to revisit the Student Welfare Policies and examine their relevance in the light of contemporary requirements. Therefore, soon after taking over the Presidentship of Association of Indian Universities, I constituted a Committee of Vice-Chancellors and senior academics, headed by Prof Suranjan Das, Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University and Vice President, AIU and other members - Dr S C Sharma, Director, NAAC, Dr C Raj Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, O P Jindal Global University, Dr N C Gautam, Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya and Dr (Mrs) Ina Shastri, AIU-GC Member and Vice-Chancellor, Banasthali Vidyapeeth.

The main objective of the committee was to examine the extant policies and develop a framework to aid-in designing, development and implementation of adequate policies related to student welfare activities such as academic, sports, scholarships, internships, career developments, students' grievances, international students' welfare and various other aspects pertaining to student welfare. The other objective is to give maximum welfare benefits to students by solving their problems and providing them a better learning experience in the campus.

The Committee, after thoroughly examining the schemes and services related to student welfare has submitted its report with tangible recommendations which is being presented in this document.

I put on record the contribution of Dr Amarendra Pani, Joint Director, Research & Dr Rahul, Research Assistant for preparing the concept paper, terms of reference and coordinating with the Committee in holding a series of Meetings for deliberating on the issue and finalizing the recommendations. I express gratitude to Prof Suranjan Das, Chairman of the Committee and the members for taking up this onerous task of examining the Student Welfare schemes and preparing the report within a very short time. I also gratefully acknowledge the efforts of Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities for her constant monitoring of the task without which it would not have been possible to bring out this report.

We are hopeful that the report will provide desired insight for the policy planners, regulating agencies and institutional leaders for redesigning the policies for achieving the objectives of providing a safe and secure campuses and a better learning experience to the students.

Col. Dr G Thiruvasagam
President, AIU

FOREWORD

Student welfare schemes and programmes are basic services directed towards ensuring and promoting student learning and their well-being. The contemporary education system world over has placed enormous emphasis on the student centric model of education breaking its shackles from the colonial roots in which knowledge acquisition was the prime focus and the access to education was limited. The other aspects like physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of students though were sporadically referred in various policy documents, but in practice these did not receive the desired attention. With the gradual shifting of educational paradigm, the concept of holistic development has gained traction. Realizing the importance of holistic education, the policy planners, regulating bodies, higher education institutions and the educational practitioners are now putting concerted efforts to support and strengthen the student welfare measures which is essential for the holistic development of students.

There is no denying the fact that that inadequate welfare reform has many unforeseen effects on student learning and progression, at a time causing large numbers of students to drop out from college. The New age learners are techno savvy learners who need support and assistance to get adjusted to the campus environment. As the old adage says that the adolescence period is the stress and strain, most of the students who come out of home and join any educational campus for their first degree find difficulty in adjustment because of the interpersonal issues, homesickness, and emotional vulnerabilities, and issues relating to learning. In the contemporary education system, student welfare is widely recognized as the rights of the students. Therefore, it is essential on the part of the educational institutions to provide a safe campus to the students, removing the barriers to learning, and ensuring that all students achieve their full potential through the provision of appropriate care, guidance and support interventions as part of the institutional policies. Removing discrimination in providing student welfare services in an equitable and justifiable manner and their constant monitoring is also the responsibility of the institutions.

Most of the student welfare policies in India designed in the past with the recommendations of various committee and commissions have to be realigned with the present-day requirements. Realizing the concern, the New Education Policy launched in 2020 by the Government of India has categorically been a student centric policy and has recommended the policy framework for the holistic development of the students. Under the circumstance, there is a need to revisit the policies and schemes related to the student welfare. With the increasing enrolment in higher education and

subsequent rise in number of students, adequate strategies need to be developed to revisit the schemes, redesign them and ensure that the services are not only updated but also delivered in a manner that is seamless, meaningful, and integrated with the main stream academic mission of the institutions. Adequate policies should be built on sound principles partnering with both the institution and the society as well. There is a need to determine reasons for student service variations in Higher Education. Overall, it is necessary for higher education institutions to provide the requisite quality life in the institution to their student's welfare measures. The need of the hour is to make profound strategies for adequate implementation of these reforms at Institutional level.

Association of Indian Universities as an academic *think tank body* has always been the voice of universities, faculties and students in effective implementation of welfare and other policies of higher education by providing research-based policy inputs. AIU has been adopting multipronged strategies to bring quality reform in higher education and research. With the objective of re-examining the Student Welfare schemes and the implementations of various recommendations of the NEP 2020 pertaining to student Development, the President of AIU, Col Dr G Thiruvasagam, constituted a committee of Vice Chancellors and senior academics under the chairmanship of Prof Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University. The main purpose of the committee was to develop a framework to aid-in designing, development and implementation of adequate policies related to student welfare activities such as academic, sports, scholarships, internships, career developments, students' grievances, international students' welfare and various clubs for interaction and relationship. The primary objective was to give maximum welfare benefits to students by solving their problems and providing them a better learning experience in the campus.

The Committee, after thoroughly examining the schemes and services related to student welfare has submitted its report with tangible recommendations. I express gratitude to Prof Suranjan Das, Chairman of the Committee and the members for taking up this onerous task of examining the Student Welfare schemes and preparing the report. We are hopeful that the report will provide desired insight for the policy planners, regulating agencies and institutional leaders for redesigning the policies for achieving the objectives of providing safe and secure campuses and a better learning experience to the students.

Dr Pankaj Mittal
Secretary General

Student Welfare Committee

1.	**Prof Suranjan Das** *Vice Chancellor*, Jadavpur University, Kolkata & *Vice President*, AIU Email: suranjandas2000@yahoo.co.in	Chairman
2.	**Dr S C Sharma** *Director* National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Nagarbhavi, Bangalore Email: director.naac@gmail.com	Member
3.	**Dr C Raj Kumar** *Vice-Chancellor* O P Jindal Global University, Haryana Email: vc@jgu.edu.in	Member
4.	**Dr N C Gautam** *Vice-Chancellor* Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya, Madhya Pradesh Email: gautamnc01@gmail.com	Member
5.	**Dr (Mrs) Ina Shastri** *AIU-GC Member* & *Vice-Chancellor* Banasthali Vidyapeeth, Tonk, Rajasthan Email: vc@banasthali.ac.in	Member Secretary

REPORT OF THE STUDENT WELFARE COMMITTEE, CONSTITUTED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES, NEW DELHI

Preamble

Students are crucial stakeholders of any educational institution. The institution itself should be a constructive environment keeping in mind the benefit of the student by providing appropriate support. The institutional services should ensure that students get the most out of their time at the institution, helping all students to participate more effectively in their academic and social environment, to be free from psychological pressures, to fulfill their potential, as concern about their health, well-being or behaviour is bound to impact on their academic progress and general management of their life at the institution or on placement.

Students hail from different backgrounds and have distinctly different needs and aspirations. Some of them may come from a background of traumatic events that have taken place in their life. The institution is expected to assist them in achieving their goals by providing them with the type of support they need. It may be financial, academic, moral, or emotional. At higher education institutions, the primary objective of an exceptional education must be more than preparation for a vocation and economic sustenance. The aim should be to equip the students to flourish as model human beings, both during their time at the institution and in the future. To best promote social development, it is necessary to focus on the individual and collective wellbeing of the student populace. Initiatives taken by the institution and the student involvement in them have a significant impact on the student's persistence, learning outcomes, satisfaction, and achievement. Student needs are partly met by facilities provided in the institution, and partly through an active and adequate student health, guidance and counseling service, along with opportunities for recreational and cultural activities. Student welfare is an integral part of the overall programme and focusing on wellbeing of the students is of vital importance.

All higher education institutions must have a dedicated team of people

whose main aim is to provide support to students (Student Welfare Committee). They should be the first point of contact for faculty, staff and students who may have concerns for their own, or other students', welfare. This Committee can provide advice and guidance, practical help, or a referral to someone better placed to support the students. In the current scheme of things, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of an institution can be the nodal unit to usher in welfare measures based on feedback and observation. Welfare support may be divided into two categories: academic and non-academic support. The academic welfare of students is primarily the responsibility of tutors and the senior faculty members. The non-academic welfare of students is primarily the responsibility of the Head of the institution.

Necessity for Emphasis on Student Welfare Measures

This century has brought more opportunities than ever before to participate in higher education. Students have more choice in terms of courses and modes of participation. While it may seem that there is no better time to be a student, in many ways student life is more complex and challenging than in the past decades. This increases the psychological stress that students experience. HEIs are now much larger, and the student body far more diverse, than in the past. Thus the student body and student life today are different in several important ways compared with those of the past generations:

- There are more mature, international, regional, distance, and 'first-in-family' (I-generation Learners) students undertaking higher studies.

- Present generation students are more varied in their motivations, academic abilities and preparedness for higher learning.

- Student expectations of universities and their goals in undertaking higher studies are more varied than ever before.

- Students are organizing their studies around paid work, volunteering, or sporting commitments, as also an active social life.

- Many students are also juggling family and domestic responsibilities and financial or community obligations.

- While increased participation and diversity in higher education is a positive development, for some students being part of a complex 'mass' education system is de-personalizing and isolating.

- For students entering higher education institutions with lower levels of academic readiness or with multiple competing commitments, the stress associated with the academic demands of a course can be overwhelming.

- Many students are spending less time on campus than in past decades and increase in enrolment and class-size mean that some students complete courses without making any friends among their peers.

- Higher education participation has never been as expensive for students as it is today. For many students, the direct and indirect costs of higher studies are a major source of stress.

- Added to this is the growing uncertainty about the value of a higher degree in terms of employment and income-generation. On its own, earning a degree is no longer enough to secure a rewarding employment. As a result, many students in higher learning feel they need to achieve high grades while also engaging in a range of extra-curricular and voluntary activities to build their resumes and enhance their 'employability'. The stress of juggling multiple commitments and financial pressures, with no clear idea of where higher studies will lead, are causes of concern for many contemporary students.

· The numbers of differently abled students ('*Divyangjan*') accessing HE continue to climb. They require special care, support, and welfare measures. The prevailing model of disability continues to move away from a medical model (a problem belonging to the differently abled individual) to a social model (where it is society that disables these individuals through its differential attitudes). The increase in the numbers of special students is likely to be driven by a few factors:

  - Improved Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) support for children in the compulsory education system.

  - Students' increasing willingness (caused perhaps by the lessening of stigma) to disclose a disability, especially if it is a mental health condition.

  - Sustained efforts to widen participation to include traditionally under-represented groups, including differently abled students.

  - Changes in legislation related to the requirements HE providers are expected to meet in providing support for disabled students.

- In recent years there has been a significant rise of female students. Each institution should evolve effective policies to promote women

empowerment and take adequate measures to address the challenge of sexual discrimination and abuse. This is particularly important for co-educational institutions.

- The stress factors inherent in a mass higher education system and an increasingly uncertain and challenging employment market cannot be eliminated, only mitigated and managed. To this end, all students can benefit from learning and teaching environments designed to support psychological wellbeing. Empirical research has consistently identified that student mental wellbeing and academic achievement are both strengthened by learning environments that actively foster appropriate mental wellbeing through welfare measures.

- Education is the most powerful instrument for empowering the socially disadvantaged groups. Poverty, and a lack of accessibility and availability are the major reasons for midway dropouts of socially disadvantaged students in higher education. Students on the cusp are still facing issues like having lunch every day; participating in extracurricular activities, facing insurmountable financial burdens, procuring academic requirements for effective learning — these all force students to drop out from universities.

Overall, it is necessary for higher education institutions to provide the requisite Quality Life in the institution to their students through Student Welfare Measures.

Key Institutional Responsibilities

- Although some key positions in the HEI have responsibility for developing and leading the implementation of student welfare strategies, the responsibility for student welfare lies with every member of the institutional community. The institution should adopt the holistic approach to any problems that may crop up.

- The designated Head of Student Welfare Committee would be the strategic lead for developing and delivering appropriate welfare policies, procedures and services and for dealing with individual issues of student welfare.

- On a fundamental level, equity and equality welfare measures need to be drawn up to help socially disadvantaged and financially challenged students form a better institutional relationship and to create all-inclusive academic opportunities in the institution.

- All academic and professional staff also has a responsibility to act on any concerns raised about a student's welfare. These staff may not be experts in student welfare support, but they must know where to refer students for appropriate support.

- Student Welfare staff must be responsible for delivering specialist welfare support, always acting in accordance with any relevant professional requirements.

- Students should be counseled to be proactive in managing their own welfare and in seeking support as and when appropriate. In particular, students must provide information about any situation or condition that will impact on their welfare and for which they would like support from the institutional welfare facility.

Policy Development may be on the following Issues

1. **Academic issues:**

   a. **Difficulties in understanding certain syllabus/curriculum**
   - Faculty addressing individual and group difficulties exclusively, other than regular classes
   - Mentor-Mentee mechanism for a better relationship with the students even after passing out from the institution

   b. **Student's grievance on examination marks**
   - ICT enabled grievance management system for addressing grievances related to examinations

   c. **Boosting social and sports activities and encouraging student unions**
   - Alumni meets to understand the field requirement
   - Industrial meets / Potential Recruiter meets

   d. **Fostering students with learning difficulties**
   - Continuous follow-ups, investigating the academic hindrance faced by students individually
   - Providing required guidance
   - Providing relevant study materials
   - Counseling, offering free training
   - Organizing assisting lectures

- Raising awareness amongst the faculty members of the students
- Providing free books through book bank service or e-books
- Motivating students to attain their desired academic success, and to minimize the dropout rate

e. **Fostering students with special needs**
- Providing accessible infrastructural facilities
- Providing social and psychological support
- Health care on the campus
- Promoting the mingling of students in various social and sports activities

f. **Fostering outstanding students**
- Honouring outstanding students in social and sports activities.
- Providing tuition fee grants by the universities
- Recommending internship opportunities and monetary prizes/ free education
- Involving alumni and senior students in higher learning on campus
- Organising various activities meeting their needs and tendencies
- Encouraging participation in academic seminars, Quality Assurance unit tasks and various committees
- Developing the skills of academically outstanding students.

2. **Student Support issues**
   a. **Guidance and Counseling Services**
   - Individual Inventory service
   - Information Service
   - Counseling Service
   - Referral Service
   - Placement Service

   b. **Scholarships, Grants and Financial Assistance Cells**
   - One main portal to collect and maintain data information, profile, and record of students and scholars across all the universities.

- Managing generation and/or allocation of funds for scholarship and financial aid to deserving but financially challenged students.

- Developing mechanisms for the universities to institutionalize more compassionate policies and guidelines for those students who are financially challenged and/or belonging to the marginalized sector of society.

- Ensuring the accessibility of all the scholarships and financial aid through a single point of constant availability and wide dissemination of information of qualifications, eligibility requirements and procedures.

- Developing and maintaining partnerships with generous donors, benefactors and scholarship foundations outside the institution.

- Design, implementation and evaluation of appropriate guidelines, screening and monitoring procedures understood by applicants, recipients and other stakeholders.

- Establishing linkages with government agencies and the private sector, local or abroad which provide student financial aid and scholarship grants.

- Redesigning and improving policies, rules, regulations, and strategies in the solicitation of financial aid and scholarship grants.

- Monitoring and evaluating the status, grades, courses, and completion of students enjoying financial aid and scholarships.

- Making arrangements with railway authorities for the issue of railway concessions to students during vacations, for educational tours, and for students' participation in extracurricular activities and sports.

- Character certificates issued to the students in the institution round the year.

- Helping students to get educational loans from banks.

- Establishment of Alumni Chapters at national and international level.

- Establishing a process by which the institution recognizes their Alumnus and establishing a Centre of Excellence through them. Industry sponsored labs, chairs, fellowships, medals and many more.

c. **Career Development and Student Internship Service Centres**
- Providing career counseling
- Training for Competitive Examinations
- Establishing formal linkages with the employment sector
- Supervising and coordinating with student internship coordinators
- Centralized data banking of intern students
- Facilitating students in their transition to the world of employment
- Providing informative materials in accessible formats on career opportunities and skills enhancement.
- Executing value addition and skills programmes to enhance their employability skills

d. **Student Housing and Dormitories**
- Student housing and institutional hostel for Boys and Girls
- Implement appropriate guidelines and policies for the safety and security of student inhabitants
- Secretary: Responsible for overall community building, programming, enforcing policy and other duties as assigned.

e. **Student Grievance**
- Informal Resolution
- Formal Procedure for Complaint Processing
- Statutory committee formation for students' grievance
- Atrocity and Anti-Ragging Mechanism
- Anti-Sexual Harassment Mechanism
- Grievances related to manhandling

f. **Preparing various manuals and policies**
- Malpractice manual
- Ethical policy
- Innovation policy
- Startup policy
- Alumni Policy
- Gender Equality and Empowerment

g. **Organizing Curricular, extracurricular, personality development and value inculcation activities**

- To provide all round development to the students in terms of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities
- To organize the events in a planned manner
- To monitor and record students' performance and awards
- To support students in their activities financially and through experts so as to take them to the next level
- To maintain records of all activities
- To allocate marks based on participation
- To encourage students to excel in sports and cultural events outside the institution, providing seed money / travel and other support
- Extended workshops and library for the projects/ competitions
- Internship and apprenticeship opportunities to be created
- Entrepreneurship cell to reach out to the students
- Building an inclusive innovation ecosystem
- Ethics infusing mechanism

h. **Active international student welfare cells:**

International Students Cell should provide adequate support to overseas students, making their stay in the campus academically fruitful and culturally rich.

- Collaborations with foreign universities across the globe
- Establishing International Relations Office (IRO) responsible for providing information to international students
- Providing transportation facility
- Providing accommodation facility
- Conducting orientation programmes to provide institutional information
- Ensuring safety and security of the student in the campus
- Ensuring regularity in classes run under the programme
- Establish mentoring system to resolve students' grievances

i. **Student participation and activities in various institutional bodies to promote leadership quality and build confidence in students.**

j.   **Various clubs can be formed for interaction and relationship with the students for their holistic support, progress and development.**

3.   **Duties and responsibilities of Student Welfare Office**

Each institution should have a Student Welfare Office which should function under the direction of a Senior Dean/Junior Dean/Student Welfare Officer. The duties of this Office may be:

a. To arrange for a congenial living environment in the campus including hostels for the students

b. To monitor day to day essential support necessary for the academic and co-curricular activities of students

c. To arrange for special attention to the weaker and needy sections of students

d. To design, plan and execute programmes for holistic development of the students

e. To chart student progression and timely intervention

f. To enable students to participate effectively in the management of hostels and in organization of the student related activities

g. To advise student council as and when needed

h. To stay in touch with the guardians as and when required

i. To plan for maintenance of student's discipline in the institution

Conclusion

The Student's Welfare Committee shall be the umbrella committee overseeing all matters of the student's welfare in the institution. Student Council, a part of the Welfare Committee, is a conglomerate of student's clubs and societies at the institution. The Committee will be a part of the institutional administrative and academic structure. unlike an independent union. The Committee will be devoted to the educational interests and welfare of the students while following strict guidelines established by the institution.

The Student Welfare Committee (and Policy) should aim to accomplish the following goals for improving the quality of the learners' life in higher education institutions:

1.   To aid in designing, development and implementation of adequate strategies related to student welfare activities.

2. Student welfare cell with dedicated student welfare officer should render the programmes and services for holistic development.

3. A dedicated student welfare e-portal to feature all the necessary information about the institution's initiatives with regard to academics and welfare measures.

4. To give maximum welfare benefits to students by solving their problems and providing them a better learning experience.

5. To make students understand their personal abilities and tendencies through interviews and assessment tests.

6. To help students with psychological issues to achieve reconciliation with the self and the other.

7. In cooperation with the Student Assessment Review Committee and the Faculty Administration, the Student Welfare Committee should foster the gifted as well as students with learning difficulties and special needs, and help solve their academic and social problems.

8. It supervises student admissions and transfers in the faculty.

9. It helps overcome educational difficulties in languages and suggest appropriate solutions.

10. It helps develop the students' interactive skills, such as translation, communication, and teaching skills.

11. It fosters discovering and boosting the students' skills through the proper social, sports, and cultural activities.

12. It fosters the overall wellbeing of students to comfortably go through the expected rigour of any Higher Education endeavour.

The following are the AIU Schemes concerning Student Support Schemes

1. Research and Academic Related Schemes

Anveshan:

Anveshan: Student Research Convention is a pioneering initiative of AIU launched in the year 2007. The Research Conventions are organized every year at Zonal and National level. The objective of *Anveshan* is to identify the young talents with aptitude of research and nurturing these talents by giving them adequate academic and other support.

In these Conventions, innovative research projects are invited in Five Areas viz. Basic Science, Engineering & Technology, Agriculture Science and

Allied Areas, Health Sciences and allied subjects, Arts; Social Science, Humanities, Management and Law. The projects are scrutinized and assessed by a panel of three experts in the concerned fields through structured guidelines and rules with well laid procedure. Top Fifteen projects from each zone is pooled and allowed to enter into the national convention for further assessment and finally awarded with cash prizes, certificates and mementoes.

2. **Sports**

   Inter-University Sports

   - AIU is the only Inter-University body in the country with a mandate to organize National University **Sports** Championships / Games (223 sports activities in 63 sports, where about 5 lacs student-athletes participate) at zonal, Inter zonal and National level.

   - The main objective is to **identify the natural talent** from grass root level by organizing selection trials in prominent Olympic Sports recognized by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports i.e. Archery Athletics, Badminton, Judo, Wrestling, Shooting, Volleyball, Wushu etc.

   - Nurture the raw talent at **coaching camps** of selected sports organized at member universities sports infrastructure of National standard and prepare Higher Education sector youth for participation at various National and Global University Championship

   - **Khelo India University Games** in collaboration with Sports Ministry and AIU. National Championships organized by respective National Sports Federation.

   - **Asian University Championship** under the aegis of Asian University Sports Federation (AUSF).

   - **World University Games/Sports Championships** under the ambit of International University Sports Federation (FISU).

   - Participation in these multifaceted championships not only provides University youth with an opportunity to explore the possibility of **jobs** at various public department and Ministries including Railways, Army, Navy, Postal Department, Income Tax etc. but also help them for **admission** in universities and colleges under sports quota.

   - The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy (**MAKA Trophy**) to be presented to the overall top performing university for promoting

excellence in competitive sports. It is the most prestigious award, which is presented to the Vice Chancellor and Director Sports of winning university by the Hon'ble President of India on the National Sports Day – 29th August, every year.

- The AIU organizes **Vizzy Trophy Cricket** (M) Tournament in collaboration with Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in which top 4 teams (one from each zone) are selected during zonal cricket tournaments, on the basis of outstanding performance of the players, every year.

- Sports Division liaisons with Sports Ministry, Sports Authority of India, National Sports Federations, Indian Olympic Association (IOA), International University Sports Federation (FISU) and Asian University Sports Federation (AUSF) for assisting university student through participation in competitive Sports.

3. **Youth Affair Programmes**

- The aim of youth affair programme is to create awareness and pride amongst the university/colleges youth towards recognizing and appreciating our rich cultural heritage thereby promoting national unity, integration and provide an opportunity to the youth to excel at national and international platform.

- It is the only nodal agency in the entire country which has been accorded the mandate to organize youth programme on the zonal, national and at international level.

- At present the Youth Affairs programmes includes **AIU Inter-University Zonal & National Youth Festivals (AIU UNIFESTS)**; **AIU Asian Universities Youth Festivals (AUFEST); AIU International Youth Festival, AIU National Moot Court Competition, AIU National Women Parliament, AIU National Youth Trekking and Adventure Camp; AIU National Qawwali Competition**; Youth Leadership Camps, Yoga Camps, DSWs & Cultural Coordinators Seminar etc.

- In our mega youth festivals (UNIFEST), AIU has been conducting 33 events in the field of Music, Dance, Fine Arts, Literary & Theatre (**wherein about 7230 selected students from around 257 universities qualified to participate in our Zonal/National Youth Festivals out of approx 4.3 lac students from Inter-College and Universities Youth Festival/Competitions**).

4. **AIU portals for Students**

   i.   AIU admission portal is available for student assistance on AIU webpage: (https://admission.aiu.ac.in/)

   ii. AIU job portal is available for student assistance on AIU webpage.

   iii. AIU collaboration portal is available for student assistance on AIU webpage: (https://collaboration.aiu.ac.in/)

   iv. AIU sports events portal available for student assistance on AIU webpage.

5. **Library Services**

   i.   The e-copy of the University News is available on AIU webpage from March 23rd, 2020 onwards.

   ii. The soft copy of Monthly compendiums of articles will be available soon on AIU website.

   iii. Bibliography data is available in AIU Library for PhD scholars and other students.

   iv. AIU library is a reference library and available for students to access various books, journals and articles etc.

6. **Students Information Service**

   i.   Providing information to students on their eligibility for admission to an Indian university

   ii. Providing information to students on Accreditation status of foreign universities through email.

The Committee recommends the continuation of the above Schemes. It, however, feels that there could be a separate segment within the AIU Portal For Students concerning UGC Guidelines to deal with cases of Ragging and Sexual Abuse.

Committee Constituted for Examining the Issues related to Student Welfare in Indian Higher Education

Concept Paper Cum ToR

August 17, 2021

Student Welfare: Background

Student Welfare endeavors to help a student's educational process to advance their academic as well as personal abilities. These activities target at avoiding the hindrances that may come in the path of a student's learning process so that they can be qualified professionally upon the national and international levels. Student welfare initiatives help in facilitating a positive academic environment and help students to proceed in their career with minimal obstruction. Adequate implementation of these initiativesprotectsthe rights of students and promotes and co-ordinates activities to nurture students mental, physical and cultural growth.Therefore, Student welfare program and services are basic services and programs needed to ensure and promote student well-being.

The concept of a student welfare service is a relatively new phenomenon. The colonial model of higher education did not focus on the whole student and access to an education was limited to those who could afford it. But, as the number of student'senrolments has began to swell, adequate strategies need to be developed to ensure that these activities and services must be delivered in a manner that is seamless, meaningful, and integrated with the academic mission of the institution. Adequate policies should be built on sound principles partnering with both the institution as well as society.

Inadequate welfare reform has the unforeseen effect of causing large numbers of recipients to drop out of college. This is a need of an hour to make profound strategies for adequate implementation of these reforms at Institutional level. Presently, student welfare in higher education has become an activity of primary concern. There is a need to determine

reasons for student service variations in Higher Education. Therefore, in this regard AIU has decided to constitute a committee of VC's to examine the existing policies and suggests recommendations for further improvements.

Purpose/Objective: The purpose of the committee is to develop a framework to aid-in designing, development and implementation of adequate policies related to student welfare activities.The primary objective is to give maximum welfare benefits to students by solving their problems and providing them a better learning experience.

Terms of Reference: The term of reference of the Welfare Committee is to examine the current status of welfarepolicies of Indian universities and further have a close look into broader policy framework of government of India and their compatibility/suitability to the Indian institutions. The Committee is mandated to analyse and compare the attributes of international welfare policies and suggest strategies to bring necessary reforms in the Higher Education welfare system in the country.

Scope of Welfare activities

Scope of the deliberation of the Committee includes the analysis of the regulatory policy, constraints in existing policies, scope of improvement of regulatory reforms for creating a better learning experience of students.

Role of the Chair Person

The Role of the Chair Person is to convene and chair the Meetings of the Committee and guide and moderate the deliberations on the predetermined agenda. Monitoring the proceedings and supervising the preparation of the report along with actionable recommendations which will be submitted to Ministry of education and other relevant agencies for policy initiatives for strengthening the accreditation and creating a pathway for quality and excellence for the institutions which will subsequently improve the ranking status of the institutions.

Role of the Members

Active Participation in deliberations and providing suggestions after critically analysing the issues involved in current status of welfare related policy framework and institutional perspectives.

Role of the Member Secretary/Convener

The Member Secretary of the Committee shall be the Convener. He shall assume the role of preparing the agenda items of each meeting, issuing notice for meeting to all members of the committee, coordination with the Chairperson and members, providing the material support (If required). The Member Secretary will also present the Agenda Items and take note of the proceedings while being involved in discussion and deliberations.

Outcome

The Committee is expected to focus on every minute details of existing student welfare issues.It will prepare a roadmap with actionable strategies for government both at central and state level for appropriateimplication of these strategies.

Time Line: Three Months

The Committee is expected to complete the entire deliberation in three meetings: The timeline fixed for the deliberation is as follows:

1. **First Meeting: August 2021:** Introductory/Preliminary discussion on the existing scenarios of student welfare activities, constraints and suggestion for amendments in existing system.

2. **Second Meeting: September 2021:** Critical/detailed discussion on the parameters and first draft of recommendations. The first draft is to be circulated to the members of the Committee for feedback/ comments.

3. **Third Meeting: October 2021:** The Feedback and comments to be discussed and proceedings with recommendations to be revisited and finalised.

4. Facilities to be provided to the Committee

The Chairperson and Committee members will be paid sitting allowance along with TA/DA as per AIU rules. Each time, meeting venue be provided by AIU at its premise in Delhi, in case the Chairpersons and Members desires to convene physical meetings. In case of the online/virtual meetings AIU will make arrangement as per the requirement.

Proposed Committee:

1. Dr. Suranjan Das   - **CHAIRMAN**
    Vice-President, AIU &Vice-Chancellor,
    Jadavpur University
    188, Raja S.C. Mallick Rd,
    Kolkata-700 032
    Mobile: 09830202966
    Email: suranjandas2000@yahoo.co.in

2. Dr. S.C. Sharma   - **SPECIAL INVITEE**
    Director, NAAC
    Opp. NLSIU, PB 1075, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore-560 072
    Mobile/Tel.: 080-23210267
    Email: director.naac@gmail.com

3. Dr. Mrs. Ina Shastri   - **MEMBER**
    AIU-GC Member & Vice-Chancellor
    Banasthali Vidyapeeth, Tonk, Rajasthan
    Mobile/Tel.: 9928329955/01438-228787
    Email: vc@banasthali.ac.in / ina_shastri@yahoo.com

4. Dr. C. Raj Kumar   - **MEMBER**
    Vice-Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University
    Sonipat, Haryana
    Mobile: 09910122851
    Email: vc@jgu.edu.in

5. Dr. N.C. Gautam   - **MEMBER**
    Former AIU-GC Member & Vice-Chancellor
    Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramoday Vishwavidyalya
    Chitrakoot-485 334
    District Satna (MP)
    Mobile: 09444233778
    Email: gautamnc01@gmail.com

डॉ. (श्रीमती) पंकज मित्तल
(पूर्व कुलपति, बीपीएस महिला विश्वविद्यालय, हरियाणा)
महासचिव

Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal
(Former Vice Chancellor, BPS Women University, Haryana)
Secretary General

भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय संघ
ए०आई०यू० हाउस, 16, कॉमरेड इंद्रजीत गुप्ता मार्ग
(कोटला मार्ग), नई दिल्ली—110 002

Association of Indian Universities
AIU House, 16, Comrade Indrajit Gupta Marg (Kotla Marg),
New Delhi-110 002

Respected Sir,

Greetings from AIU!

Association of Indian Universities, as an apex representative body of universities and other higher education institutions in the country, is charged with the mandate of providing expertise on up to date developments in the field of advanced teaching, research and experiments in the management of higher education and work in close coordination with Ministry of Education and undertake all such programmes and research projects and capacity building activities to fulfil its research based advisory role to the govt. AIU, as an academic think tank organisation of the country caters to the need of all stakeholders including the leadership position of the universities, institutional requirements and the students too.

Students are the primary stakeholders of the higher education system of the country. Therefore, welfare of the students is of paramount importance. Keeping this in view, the President, AIU has constituted a committee entitled **"Student Welfare Committee"** comprising of the following:

1	**Dr. Suranjan Das** Vice-President, AIU & Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University 188, Raja S.C. Mallick Rd, Kolkata – 700 032 Mobile : 09830202966 Email : suranjandas2000@yahoo.co.in	Chairman
2	**Dr. S.C. Sharma** Director, NAAC Opp. NLSIU, PB 1075, Nagarbhavi Bangalore-560 072 Mobile/Tel. : 080-23210267 Email : director.naac@gmail.com	Member
3	**Dr. C. Raj Kumar** Vice-Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University Sonipat, Haryana Mobile : 09910122851 Email : vc@jgu.edu.in	Member
4	**Dr. N.C. Gautam** Former AIU-GC Member & Vice-Chancellor Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramoday Vishwavidyalya Chitrakoot- 485 334, District Satna (MP) Mobile : 09444233778 Email : vcunom@gmail.com	Member
5	**Dr. Mrs. Ina Shastri** AIU-GC Member & Vice-Chancellor Banasthali Vidyapeeth, Tonk, Rajasthan Mobile/Tel. : 9928329955 /01438-228787 Email : vc@banasthali.ac.in / ina_shastri@yahoo.com	Member Secretary

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Phone: +91 11 2323 6105 **Fax:** +91 11 2323 2131 **E-mail:** sgoffice@aiu.ac.in, pankajugc@gmail.com; **Website:** www.aiu.ac.in

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May I request you to kindly Chair the Committee and benefit the AIU with your expert advice. I am enclosing the Concept Paper giving the background for constituting this committee, the scope of the committee, the role of the Chairperson, Members and the Member Secretary and the outcome expected from the committee.

You are requested to kindly consider submitting the report of the committee within 3 months. I am sure that with your expertise, the report produced will be of high quality and of much use to various stake holders in Higher Education.

The AIU would be providing the sitting allowance along with TA/DA as per AIU rules. In case the meeting is scheduled in Delhi, AIU would be happy to host it in AIU office at AIU House, 16 Comrade Indrajit Gupta Marg (Kotla Marg), New Delhi-110 002. In case you wish to hold the meeting on online mode, we would be happy to provide all technical support including creating a link for the meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any query or any assistance during the accomplishment of this important task.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Pankaj Mittal)

Encl: As above

Dr. Suranjan Das
Vice-President, AIU & Vice-Chancellor
Jadavpur University
188, Raja S.C. Mallick Rd, Kolkata – 700 032

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